

BEGINNING

*october 1*

*mandatory drug testing  
for new applicants.*



your possibilities

your choices



your future...



your children...



# Drug Testing Pilot Fact Sheet

## Drug Testing-Treatment Policy

*Michigan has opted to do mandatory testing to maximize the potential for identifying customers who have a need for treatment.*

As a result of a new law, and to help identify and strengthen Michigan families struggling with substance abuse, the Family Independence Agency began a pilot drug testing and treatment program October 1, 1999 in Alpena/Presque Isle and Berrien Counties, and the Greenfield/Joy district in Wayne County. It begins later in Kent County and the Wayne County Romulus district.

Most applicants for the Family Independence Program (FIP, formerly known as ADC) in these locations must complete a drug test prior to case opening. Urine specimens will be tested for marijuana, cocaine, amphetamines, opiates (morphine, codeine or heroin), and phencyclidine (PCP). Applicants with positive test results will be referred for a substance abuse treatment assessment. If substance abuse treatment is needed, a referral to a treatment program will be made. Successful participation in substance abuse treatment will improve your ability to obtain and retain employment as well as strengthen your family relationships.



*How will this policy affect my benefits?*

If you do not give a urine specimen for drug testing by the end of the first business day after you are referred to a collection sight, your FIP application may be denied. You may reapply at any time and complete drug testing.

If you give a specimen that tests positive for any of the previously listed drugs and you have no legal reason to have these drugs in your body, you will be referred for an assessment of your need for substance abuse treatment. The assessing agency will interview you and decide if you need a substance abuse treatment referral. Your benefits could be reduced or stopped if you do not cooperate with this assessment.

If you are referred for substance abuse treatment, you must report to the treatment program within ten days of the referral. If you do not cooperate with substance abuse treatment, your benefits could be reduced or stopped.

## How?

*Michigan decided to do mandatory testing to maximize the potential for identifying customers who have a need for treatment.*

## Support

### Supportive Services

If you need help with child care, transportation or other services to complete drug testing, assessment or treatment, contact your Family Independence Specialist.



## Why?

*Welfare reform presents new opportunities to help ensure that the needs of customers and their children are met.*

### Why is the New Drug Testing/Treatment Program Important to Me?

This pilot program is intended to help families. Using drugs can slow down your thinking and keep you from helping your children make progress. Helping kids with their schoolwork lets them know that it is important that they do well in school so they grow up to be happy productive adults. If you use drugs, you may not be able to help them. You want what's best for your kids and FIA is here to help.



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## Where?

*Five sites have been selected to pilot drug testing prior to statewide implementation.*

The sites are:

*Effective October 1, 1999*

Alpena/Presque Isle,  
Berrien  
Greenfield/Joy (Wayne County)

*Effective February 1, 2000.*

Kent  
Romulus (Wayne County)

These sites were selected based on issues such as:

local support  
employer involvement  
treatment capacity  
diversity of demographics  
local FIA/DCH issues and/or  
geographic balance.

## Important

FIP and Food Stamp benefits will not be reduced or stopped due to a positive test result. Benefits may be reduced or stopped due to non-compliance with drug testing/treatment policy only when a client:

- fails to complete a timely drug test; or
- fails to complete an assessment interview following a positive test result; or
- fails to comply with substance abuse treatment when referred.

## Who?

*All applicants and a 20 percent random selection of open FIP cases*

All applicants for FIP benefits will be required to submit to testing as a condition of eligibility. (*Exceptions are applicants over age 65, those already participating in court ordered substance abuse treatment, and ineligible grantees.*)

A 20 percent random selection of FIP cases in the pilot locations will be tested at redetermination of eligibility.



## When?

Beginning October 1, 1999

All applicants for FIP in 3 sites.

Beginning February 1, 2000

All applicants for FIP in 2 additional sites.

Beginning April 1, 2000

A 20 percent random selection of recipients in the pilot sites whose cases are due for redetermination.

*October 1*

*February 1*

*April 1*

# QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

**1** *Q-Why do I have to take a drug test?*

**A-**The State Legislature passed a law requiring drug testing be done as a condition of eligibility for FIP applicants. Effective October 1, 1999 all FIP applicants in the pilots are required to submit to a drug test as a condition of eligibility.

**2** *Q-How did this policy come about?*

**A-**Having strong family relationships may be more difficult if there are substance abuse issues in the home. Because substance abuse is a barrier to employment, drug testing is being piloted in Michigan.

**3** *Q-How will drug testing affect my eligibility?*

**A-**If you submit to the drug testing requirement and meet all other eligibility requirements you will be eligible for FIP.

**4** *Q-What if I refuse to be drug tested at application?*

**A-**Refusal to test for drugs at application without good cause will result in denial of the FIP application. However, it will not impact on medical assistance and food stamps.

**5** *Q-What will happen if I miss my appointment for drug testing?*

**A-**If no good cause exists for missing your appointment your application will be denied.

**6** *Q-Will my children have to be tested?*

**A-**No. Children under the age of 18 will not be tested for drugs.

**7** *Q-Can I be tested by my own doctor?*

**A-**If you choose to go to your personal physician you would be responsible for payment of the drug test.

**8** *Q-Once I am tested will I have to be tested again?*

**A-**Possibly in the next six months when random testing begins for active FIP cases, or if you are positive and further tests are required by your treatment plan.

**9** *Q-What type of drugs is the Agency testing for?*

**A-**Marijuana, PCP, amphetamines, opiates and cocaine.

**10** *Q- If I test positive will I be reported to the police or protective services?*

**A-**No. Test results are used to refer customers to assessment and treatment programs, not to remove children from the home.

**11** *Q-If I don't have any money to pay for child care while I go to the collection site will the Agency pay?*

**A-**Yes. The Agency will provide child care payment assistance while you go to the collection site.

**12** *Q-If I am approved for FIP and later my case closes, if I reapply will I have to be tested for drugs?*

**A-**Yes. All FIP applicants are required to submit to drug testing.

**13** *Q-Do I have to be tested for drugs if I am only applying for medical, food stamps or day care?*

**A-**No. Only FIP applicants are required to submit to a drug test.

*If you do not understand this,  
call your local Family Independence Agency.*

Si Ud. no entiende esto, llame a su oficina local de la  
Agencia para la Independencia de la Familia.

إذا قابلت صعوبة في فهم هذا الطلب - الرجاء الإتصال بمكتبك المحلي لخدمات العائلة

QUANTITY:

COST:

APPROVAL: FIA Director

The Family Independence Agency will not discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, political beliefs or disability. If you need help with reading, writing, hearing, etc., under the Americans with disabilities Act, you are invited to make your needs known to an FIA office in your county.

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